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**Letter dated 14 May 2004 from the Permanent Representative
of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

On 19 January 2004, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Argentine Republic, Mr. Rafael Bielsa, requested you to circulate the Encyclical of Pope John XXIII, entitled *Pacem in Terris*, as a document of the United Nations.

The relevant services of the Secretariat have informed us that it is the practice of the United Nations not to reproduce existing publications as official documents of the Organization.

For that reason, we are requesting the circulation of this note as a document of the General Assembly, and suggesting that all States Members of the Organization consult the Encyclical.

This initiative is prompted by the desire to disseminate, at a time of great international tensions, a papal message from over 40 years ago which is fully relevant to the present day.

Indeed, there are serious items on the Organization's agenda which have remained unresolved since the time when the Encyclical was published, and others which, although coming after its publication, would be more likely to be resolved if we thought more deeply about the importance of the principles set out in *Pacem in Terris*, such as respect for moral law, the need for truth and justice, and active solidarity between peoples and nations.

The Encyclical *Pacem in Terris* is based on respect and consideration for all philosophies, religions and political movements, which, to the extent that they "conform to the dictates of right reason, and are an expression of man's lawful aspirations", may have "good and commendable elements", as its final paragraphs maintain.

It is mainly because of that spirit of understanding and mutual respect for all human beings, regardless of their station, nationality or beliefs, that my country considers this Encyclical to be a useful reference document on international issues that can help Member States and other international actors in coping with the



difficult environment we now face and, in particular, in shaping a response to it by the United Nations.

It is to be hoped that, following the celebration last year of the fortieth anniversary of the Encyclical, the message of Pope John XXIII will become fully relevant again and be a source of inspiration for those seeking a solution to the new challenges and threats to peace and security now facing the international community.

(Signed) Cesar **Mayoral**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative